

LOCAL NEWS.

Diamonds at Duncan's.

Board of Supervisors meets Wednesday, December 16th.

Mr. A. J. Cassatt, of Philadelphia, has been elected president of the Chesapeake Agricultural Fair Association at Cape Charles.

A new store will be opened in Onancock this week, which will be known as "The Fair." See advertisement in another column.

Capt. George C. Savage, of the Savannah Steamship line, visited his father, Capt. George G. Savage, at his home at Cape Charles, this week.

Joseph Bocaly, convicted at the last term of court of robbing Capt. Costin of a considerable sum of money, was sent to the State penitentiary this week.

If you are in need of bran, middlings, corn and oats, you will find them at D. H. Johnson & Son's, Parkside, Va., at 85 cents per hundred pounds.

Pastor J. Manning Dunaway, absent for a few days on a visit to friends at Crozer Seminary, has returned and will fill his regular appointments on Sunday.

An oyster supper will be given at Mr. E. E. Miles', on the evening of the 18th inst., for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church. Oysters will be served during the evening, from 7 till 10.

A pen of hogs slaughtered by Mr. A. T. Scott, near Onancock, this week weighed 1000 pounds, the two largest, 540 and 323 pounds, respectively, being twenty-one months old and the other three less than fifteen months.

A tenement house, near Onancock, occupied by Ezekiel Anderson, colored, the property of Capt. Thomas Johnson was burned last Tuesday night. The fire originated in a defective flue. Loss about \$250, no insurance.

The bodies of Mr. Buyn Riley and a colored man drowned in Potomac river last week, as reported in another column, had not been found up to last Thursday. A telegram has been received by the father of Mr. Riley to that effect.

Mr. Joseph Conquest, a prominent citizen of upper Accomac and one of the oldest citizens of the county, had a second attack of apoplexy at his home at Temperanceville last week. He survived it and continues to improve according to latest report.

Mr. F. W. Byrd, the commercial tourist, who sells "Old Crow," made a tour of the county this week, and made many sales of the comforting weed. He wants you to have a merry Xmas and to forget hard times by chewing Old Crow.

An advertisement of F. A. Moore, Pocomoke City, is of especial interest to our readers who are looking for Xmas presents. He has them in quantity, quality and at prices to suit and will prove it to your satisfaction if you will call and see his grand Xmas display.

Shoes, you need them, and want a good article especially at Xmas times. Ennis & Ward, Pocomoke City, through our columns this week, point you to the place to supply your wants in that line. Read their advertisement and call on them.

Rev. R. Werner Bagwell has accepted a call to Baptist Churches in Prince George and Sussex counties, and will enter upon his work at same next week. It will be his first regular pastoral work. The field to which he is called is a good one for a young man.

Messrs. D. H. Johnson & Son, now occupy their magnificent new storehouse, recently built at Parkside, and have it stocked with a superb line of new goods. They want you to call on them and propose to make it to your interest to do so. See their ad. in this issue.

The Monumental Savings and Loan Association, of Baltimore, Md., is now represented at Accomac C. H., by Messrs. Sherman and Reed. Many of the officers and directors of same are well known to, and have the confidence of our people, and furnish ample proof that the association is all that is claimed for it.

Dr. John W. Kellam, of Locustville, has been appointed district deputy grand master of the Masonic lodges in Accomac to succeed A. J. McMath, who has held the position for the past two years. Mr. McMath was also appointed by the Grand Lodge, committee of one on Masonic Home and Dr. Kellam, committee of one on propositions.

Dr. George W. LeCato, in a letter to the Free Lance, under date of 3rd inst., says that his appointment by the last General Assembly as a member of three special committees, which are to report at the next session, two of which he is chairman, makes it possible that the personal interest thereby engendered may incline him to ask his constituents for re-election to the State Senate.

The large storehouse at Boggs Wharf, on Pungoteague Creek, belonging to Mr. Tully A. Joyner, was destroyed by fire Tuesday night. The origin of the fire cannot be accounted for as no one was in the store at the time and no fire had been kindled in the store during the day. The entire stock of goods in store, belonging to Mr. O. Jennings Kellam, was also burned. The goods and storehouse each, we are informed, were insured for \$500.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES.

Chincoteague.

Capt. E. W. Milligan, Cape Charles, made a business trip to our Island this week.

Miss Bertie Tull, of Pocomoke City, is the guest this week of Mrs. Jas. E. Matthews.

Forest Comedy Co., composed of five members, registered at Atlantic Hotel, to remain for 2 weeks.

Capt. Jno. W. Bunting is on the Western Shore this week, looking after the collection of fertilizer bills.

Mr. W. J. Burch, has resigned as book keeper of Jos. English & Co., commission merchants, Philadelphia, and returned home for the winter.

Miss Viola Wheaton, daughter of Mr. D. J. Wheaton, Philadelphia, is here for the winter for her health, the guest of her uncle, Mr. Jno. A. M. Wheaton.

Schooner J. R. Moffitt arrived this week with cargo of coal and loaded with oysters for Fair Haven, Conn. Schooner Claudie V., loaded with oysters for Philadelphia.

Our stores are in holiday attire and a peep inside is only necessary to convince buyers of Xmas presents, that it is not necessary to go anywhere else to look for them, or to expect to get them at any lower prices elsewhere.

Commander Trainer, inspector of this lighthouse district, was here last week looking after the lights. He found Assateague and Killik Shoal lights all right, but says that the Fishing Point Light does not fill the bill and a larger and better light is to take its place.

Arrivals at Atlantic hotel this week: C. C. Johnson, C. J. Covington, David Bixler, Baltimore; J. W. Powell, H. J. Epelish, C. P. Pruitt, R. W. Moore, Philadelphia; Walter Reynolds, Clayton, Del.; Jno. R. Melvin, Laurel, Del.; Thomas Collins, Oliver D. Collins, Snow Hill, Md.; S. R. Estes, Wilmington; C. E. West, Frankford, Del.; C. H. Long, Miss Bertie Tull, Pocomoke City; E. W. Milligan, Cape Charles.

Chesapeake.

Capt. Wm. F. Barnes was home from the oyster grounds last Tuesday on a visit to his family. He reports the oyster business dull and unremunerative.

Our people generally slaughtered their porkers this week and there were many fine ones in this section. One killed by Mr. James Hurst weighed 587 pounds.

Sloop L. N. Ruth, Capt. Wm. C. Barnes, returned from Potomac river last Monday. He reports the roughest passage across the Chesapeake last Sunday night in his experience as a sailor of 20 years. His boat carried off her mast when about half way across the bay and for about two hours thereafter, when trying to make sail enough to reach Tangier, his boat was swept by the waves from its stem to stern. He reached Tangier 2 p. m. Monday.

News was received here last Monday from Chapel Point, Md., that Mr. W. Barnes Riley, son of Mr. Jno. F. Riley, and Wilson Wise, alias Drummond, colored, were drowned. They were employed on sloops L. N. Ruth and Mary E. Ward, which left some time ago to dredge for oysters in Potomac. On the evening of December 2d, while the sloops were anchored under Chapel Point, they were sent ashore to buy provisions at a store at Brent's Wharf, about a half mile from their boats. After waiting for several hours for their return the crews of both sloops went to look for them and found the small boat in which they had left, ashore and bottom up. Information received at the store was that they had been there and purchased the provisions. The opinion of Captain Barnes of the sloop Ruth, is that the colored man fell while sculling the boat and capsized her with the result stated above. All efforts so far to recover the bodies have been fruitless. Mr. Jno. F. Riley has offered a reward of \$25 for the recovery of the body of his son.

Franktown.

Mr. Jno. R. Tankard's infant son died a few days ago.

Many farmers, who killed hogs early, have lost some of their meat.

Dr. E. W. P. Downing will occupy Mr. J. C. Kellam's new house for the year 1897.

Mrs. C. C. Bell who has been suffering with her eyes, we are glad to report, is much better.

Mr. Chas. C. Bell has lost two fine cows within the last few months for which he would not have taken \$80.

Mr. J. B. Savage has shipped 1000 barrels, second crop sweet potatoes, south, and still in the market for more.

Mr. Sam Lankford and family are on a visit to his old home. He has been living in North Carolina for some years.

Chas. Lewis, colored, was killed by the stump-puller which is used in connection with our road machine a few days ago.

Mr. J. B. Savage lost a kitchen by fire a few nights ago, and but for Mr. Ira Lankford, who first saw it and promptly assisted by other, she would likely have lost most all the buildings on the place. Supposed to have caught from fire left from hog work.

If you want a life size crayon portrait of yourself or friend, call on S. W. Ames & Co., Pungoteague, Va., and get one free of charge.

The leading magazines, such as "Century," "Munsey," "Ladies Home Journal," &c., also the fashion journals, "Toilette," &c., can be bought or subscribed for at "The Fair," Onancock.

Only.

Mr. S. H. East and Proprietor Fox visited Norfolk this week.

Miss Carrie Belote now occupies her new dwelling just completed.

Mr. Harvey East has returned from a visit to friends in Ilchester, Md.

Mr. Ben Rew is seriously ill with typhoid fever at his home near Daugherty.

Mr. John Harmon has succeeded Mr. E. H. Belote in the blacksmith business here.

Garrick McRichie, guest of late of Mr. W. E. Mapp, has returned to his home in Washington.

Mr. B. T. Bradford shipped this week a barrel of radishes, second crop, very fine and nice.

A new house has been built here to protect the road machine and implements, by Mr. Thomas Hutchins.

Mrs. Bloxom, of Locustville, was in Williamsburg this week, on a visit to her husband critically ill in the State Hospital there.

Lionel, son of Mr. W. B. Stevenson, in Baltimore of late for the treatment of his throat, has returned home much improved.

Mr. W. C. Young will, it is reported, discontinue the mercantile business here and be succeeded by Mr. Frank Gardner in the event he does.

Mr. L. O. Watson and daughter had a narrow escape from serious injury last Wednesday. His horse ran away, threw both out and wrecked his carriage. His daughter had a tooth broken off by her fall.

The board of district stewards of the Eastern Shore district met at Only on December 9th, to transact the duties of that board. No change was made in the P. E.'s salary or in the plan of assessment.

Bell Haven.

Mrs. Margaret Holt, of Eastville, is very ill at the home of her nephew, Mr. Joseph Holt.

Mrs. George Kellam and a friend of New York are visiting Miss Nellie Smith, of Exmore.

The Earnest Workers Society will hold a Christmas Bazaar in the institute, corner Main and Lee streets, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 22d and 23rd inst. The drama "Young Dr. Devine" will be rendered. Admission free. Christmas presents to suit all ages and classes for sale in abundance. The public are cordially invited.

William Thomas Rayfield died on Wednesday night of diabetes, aged 42 years. He has been an invalid for some time, though he was ill for a short time only. The deceased has been an inhabitant of our town for the past ten years, and has won the confidence and esteem of the entire neighborhood. A widow and one son survive him. Funeral services were held in the Methodist Church on Friday morning, after which the remains were taken to Modestown by the 11:47 train for interment.

Xmas Entertainments.

Ayres M. E. Church will hold her Xmas entertainment, Monday evening, 28th.

Leatherbury's M. E. Church will hold her Xmas entertainment Xmas night, 25th.

A Christmas entertainment will be given at Guilford church, on Tuesday, December 29th.

There will be a Christmas tree at Craddockville M. E. Church, South, at night of December 25th.

A free entertainment will be given at Pocomoke M. E. Church, South, at night on the 25th day of December.

A fair will be given at Hall's Chapel, Friday, December 25th, Christmas day. Supper will be served and confectioneries sold on the occasion. All are invited to attend.

A festival will be given at Horn town for the benefit of the M. E. Church, South, Tuesday, December 29th. Ice cream and confectioneries will be sold and oysters served in every style. All are invited to attend. If weather is inclement, the first good night. COMMITTEE.

A Narrow Escape.

The truism that "we don't know when we are in danger" was again verified the third day of our late county court. The clerk of the court, M. Oldham, Jr., Joseph R. Riggs, Wm. T. Parks, Jr., and some others were seated around the stove with feet on foot rest in pleasant chat, when the pipe and earthen receptacle in the ceiling fell to the floor, and with so much force as to crush in the top of the large cast iron stove. No one was hurt or hit except Mr. Oldham. If the earthen jar had hit either it must have killed him for it was very large and heavy. Mr. Oldham says, it was all over, before he had time to find out what had happened.

Church Notes.

For good and sufficient reasons the dedicatory service at Wattsville M. P. Church is postponed from the 18th inst., to the 27th inst.—two weeks later. G. D. EDMONSTON.

Rev. C. P. Swain organized an Epworth League Chapter at Leatherbury's Chapel with fifty-one members on Thanksgiving day.

Rev. E. F. Garner will preach at Assawaman schoolhouse next Sunday afternoon, at 3 o'clock.

We are loaded down with cloaks & capes. Come and get one at your price. Ames, Shield & Co.

School Holidays.

MR. EDITOR:—In your last issue, Mr. J. D. Parsons makes the inquiry of you touching Thanksgiving as a legal school holiday—to which you very briefly, correctly and satisfactorily responded—placing it where it properly belongs upon my shoulders. Now that the "burden of proof" falls upon me, I will, as briefly as I can, state my version of it. At the last annual meeting of the County School Board, (which is composed of all the District Boards, Treasurers and School Superintendents), and which was held on the 3rd day of August, 1896, at the Court House, Mr. Parsons who is clerk of said County School Board was made conspicuous by his absence—sick I think, as he is usually prompt to attend on such occasions. Dr. Broadwater served as clerk pro-tem for Mr. Parsons.

The chief object of said annual meetings is for settlement of the school finances between the respective District Boards and the County Treasurer and his deputy, and to make such school regulations as is in its judgment conducive to the public school interest. School holidays among other things were discussed, and I remember very distinctly, to have made this statement to the Board: "that as Easter and Whitsuntide were rarely ever embraced in our short school sessions of five and six months it was seeming to give to our teachers what we really knew we could not," and I suggested that "Thanksgiving and Xmas day be the published holidays of this session—suggesting Xmas day because it completed the third school month and that our teachers might need their money before re-opening of the schools in January"—which proposition was readily accepted without a dissenting voice and so ordered. I feel sure that all present will so remember it—as evidence of which, clerks of other districts so ordered. I further stated, that in my judgment, we as a County School Board had no legal right whatever to legislate or to attempt to regulate what is from year to year proclaimed by the Presidents of the United States, re-proclaimed and published by the Governors of our State, and by published card sent to the County Supt., endorsed by our State Supt. Schools, as well as an established custom from the Colonial days.

Mr. Parsons, it seems, is the only clerk who "inserted in the teachers' contracts Xmas day and Easter Monday are legal school holidays,"—and I am sure is the only one who will require his teachers "to make it up at the end of the session." Dr. Broadwater, I am sure, intended no mistakes or omissions in his minutes, and I, supposing that none had been made, did not in the usual hurry of such adjournments take the precaution to have them read before signing same. It is, however, a very easy thing for any of us to make mistakes, as is even demonstrated in Mr. Parsons' communication to EXETER: touching this old "bone of contention." He first says the "Board expressly declared Xmas day and Easter Monday legal school holidays," then later on, says, "there will be a recess from December 26th, 1896, to January 4th, 1897,"—which from his own standpoint should be from December 24th, 1896, to January 4th, 1897.

I do not claim to be infallible or unerring, and never to make a mistake, but I do claim always to try to "do things decently and in order"—Mr. Parsons' views to the contrary notwithstanding—and as all of our school officials, as far as heard from, agree with me, and as Messrs. Cleveland, O'Ferrall and Massey have all so beautifully proclaimed it a holiday, "I still consider it a legal school holiday," and am glad to know that nearly all of our teachers so observed it. Very respectfully,

J. R. MAPP, Supt. Schools.

Deaths.

Mr. John C. Watson died after a short illness at his daughter's residence in Church Neck, Northampton county, Wednesday, November 18th, 1896, in the 84th year of his age. Funeral services were held over him at Broadwater Church of which he was a member, conducted by Rev. Mr. Gibbons, and the remains were interred in family burying ground near Middlesex, this county. He was a worthy citizen, consistent christian and had the esteem of all who knew him. His wife and six children survive him to mourn their loss.

Mrs. Henrietta Lane, wife of H. S. Lane, died at her home near Locustville, December 9th, aged 52 years. Funeral services were preached at Locustville Methodist Church on Thursday by Rev. Mr. Hitt, her pastor, of which she has been a member for many years, where her remains were interred. She was a very pious and good woman and loved by all who knew her. She leaves a husband, four children, many friends and relatives to mourn their loss, but their loss is her eternal gain. V. B. L.

Mr. Thomas Taylor a very worthy citizen and generally esteemed by those who knew him, died at his home near Assawaman, on Thursday, December 3d, aged 72 years. Nine children survive him.

I am now ready to meet the requirements in Xmas goods, for rich and poor, old and young, and the "middle classes." I have not disappointed you in other years—I will not now. Depend on me for your Xmas presents. John W. Duncan.

Ames, Shield & Co., have new ad- vertisement in this paper. Read it.

If you want a good box of writing paper for 10 cents go to Titlow's "Fair" and ask for a box of "Chesapeake"—their own special box.

Xmas goods will open up at S. W. Ames & Co., Monday 14th, to suit all sexes and ages.

For bargains in books of all kinds, except school books, go to "The Fair," Onancock, Va. They will be sold at auction prices.

Respectfully submitted to the verdict of the people.

J. E. MAPP, Supt. Schools.

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COUNTY COURT PROCEEDINGS.

November Term, 1896.

Estates of Nancy Bloxom, deceased, and Tubman B. Pruitt, deceased, were committed to John H. Wise, sheriff, for administration.

The last will of Thomas R. Kellam was proved and Robert W. T. Kellam qualified as executor.

Solomon Warner qualified as administrator of Arthur Dickerson, colored, deceased.

L. Floyd Nock qualified as guardian of Luther T. William and Edward Belote, orphans of John W. Belote, deceased.

Benjamin G. Johnson and Edward S. Wise qualified, each as notary public, for county of Accomac.

John T. Chandler and Wm. D. Tunnell, commissioners of revenue, filed their reports respectively as to violations of revenue laws.

Accounts against the Commonwealth in criminal and lunacy cases were entered as follows: Blackstone & Bell, druggists, \$2.80; Thomas M. Pruitt, constable, \$2.80; Emory Maffitt, J. P., \$1.50; C. C. Dix, constable, \$9.40; jailer for board of prisoners, \$129.20, for board of lunatics, \$15.75.

Following fiduciary accounts confirmed: Trust accounts of Albert T. Evans and Henry C. Davis and wife—audits of estates of William H. Marshall, John T. Turner, Samuel Lankford and Maria G. Bunting— orphan account of Lewis D. Heath.

Upon petition of Jno. A. M. Wheaton and others for a public road. Petition filed and order appointing viewers.

Wm. L. Drummond vs. J. T. Martin (on attachment for rent). The matter in controversy having been settled, case was dismissed.

Upon petition of John F. Nelson, Jr., and others for a public road. Order entered approving the road by the court and referring the matter to Board of Supervisors.

Ex parte: Petition of Charles A. Gibbons, & Co., late guardian. Report of Samuel T. Ross, attorney, filed and order confirming same.

Ex parte: Petition of George Hargis' executor. Report of Samuel T. Ross, exec or, filed and order confirming same.

Ex parte: Petition of James G. Fox's administrator. An affidavit filed and order for payment of costs and taxes and the share of Ella J. Fox of the funds in bank.

John W. Thomas, appellant vs. Commonwealth, appellee, (upon an appeal from judgment of a justice of the peace upon a warrant against said Thomas, charging him with wilful perjury in obtaining a marriage license for William Tunny and Susan A. Riggins in swearing that said Susan A. Riggins was over 21 years of age.) The warrant was quashed on motion of the appellant, judgment of justice of the peace set aside and said Thomas discharged from custody. Mr. Thon. was arrested at once under another warrant taken before Geo. F. Parker, J. P., and by him discharged after hearing the evidence.

A regular grand jury was empanelled and sworn and returned "not true bills," indictment against John Clayton, for malicious shooting with intent to maim, &c., and indictment against Andrew Braxton for maliciously causing bodily injury with intent to maim, &c.—and said Clayton and Braxton were thereupon discharged.

Frank Talbert appeared in accordance with his recognizance and no indictment being preferred against him, was discharged.

George W. Bunting, who was recognized to answer charge of murder, appeared, but charge against him could not be investigated by grand jury, because of the absence of witnesses and said Bunting was readmitted to bail until first day of next regular grand jury term.

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Monumental Savings and Loan Association.

It will pay any person desiring to make investments to call at Hotel Dougherty and meet the general agents, Sherman and Reed, of the Monumental National Savings and Loan Association of Baltimore City. The Monumental Savings and Loan is based on the best features of the best associations. It is duly incorporated under the laws of Maryland. The directors are men of high standing, both in the city of Baltimore and in the State. The Association issues four classes of stock as follows: Class A.—Payments in Class A 75 cents per month, limited to 84 months, value at maturity \$100 per share. Class B.—Payments 50 cents per month, limited to 102 payments, when its value will be \$100 per share. Class D.—Prepaid shares \$50 cash, estimated to mature in 6 1/2 years. May be withdrawn at any time after one year from date of issue and receive 6 per cent. per annum; if withdrawn after two years 7 per cent.; after three years 8 per cent.

Class E.—This is a guaranteed 8 per cent. per annum certificate, interest payable semi-annually. This Association is not a stranger in Accomac county, four local boards having been organized in the county, which are represented by the business men of their respective towns. The general agents are here for the purpose of establishing a local board.

If you are not quite certain what to get for Xmas presents and will give me just a hint, I will give you the benefit of my experience. Don't mind speaking freely, everything is kept in strict confidence. It is a part of my business, and necessary to my success, to keep quiet.

John W. Duncan.

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